

# Press-Herald

GLENN W. PFEIL . . . . . Publisher  
REID L. BUNDY . . . . . Editor and Co-Publisher  
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## No Press Agents Needed

A Torrance Council committee recommendation that the city enter into a community information program, complete with information officer and staff, should be subjected to very careful scrutiny before any decision is made to establish the office.

Although the councilmen and members of the city manager's staff have gone to some trouble to explain safeguards which would be built into any city publicity bureau—safeguards against the office servicing political causes and ambitions—the mere existence of such a service could lead to such activity.

While this, we feel, is a threat to the nonpartisan facade the city's administration is expected to maintain, we have reservations about the office for reasons we feel hold a greater threat to the public.

We fear the office would soon become the clearing house for ALL city news, and that it would soon be the official spokesman for city departments and the direct contact of the public—personally and through their newspaper—with the staff personnel of the city would be greatly reduced. This has the inherent danger of city news being generated by press release, not by the digging efforts of the reporter.

The city does not suffer from a lack of exposure. Certainly some things some of the city aides would like to see publicized may not be getting into print. On the other hand, one could probably point to a few things reaching print which the aides would just as soon sweep under the nearest rug.

A centralized publicity office just might provide the needed rug—regardless of the promised intent of the framers of the proposal.

Unless some very convincing arguments can be raised to support the proposed office, the Press-Herald must oppose it. We don't think it is needed.

## Giving the Heart a Break!

The rather sudden emergence of medical science's ability to transplant human hearts has created a great deal of interest and a considerable discussion of the pros and cons of the moral implications.

But there is a vast area of heart interest that should have little opposition, great support. That is the continuing, amazing progress being made in the correction of heart faults and the combatting of heart diseases. Transplantation is but one spectacular development among many in this vital field.

February is Heart Month, and an appropriate Valentine to all humanity would be a generous contribution to the local heart association. It is one way each of us can give someone a new heart, if you define heart as "hope."

## Opinions of Others

President Johnson predicts that the American people "are going to rise up and revolt" against the lawbreaker in this country. The nation, he concludes, has reached the limit of its patience with lawlessness and crime. . . . Millions do not break the law even though they are poor and many crimes—among them embezzlement, forgery, and fraud—are not usually committed by slum dwellers. Moreover, crime is increasing in the slum-free affluent suburbs. —*Findlay (Ohio) Republican-Courier*.

When one considers the trademark of the hippies, I can't help but wonder if the long hair doesn't cover up a shortage of brains.—*Bob Percy in the Danville (Ind.) Gazette*.

## A Letter . . . . . . To My Son

By Tom Rische

High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce,  
In the 1960s, by the time you're ready for college, costs may be as high as \$6,000 a year, according to estimates.

By then, California will have another 10 million people, half under 21. Each year, the state gets some 500,000 residents.

Nonetheless, a state committee recently recommended a cutback in state college construction, suggesting enlargement of present campuses.

To waste California's most precious natural resources—its children—by trying to run schools like an assembly line factory is penny-wise and pound foolish. It may be good business, but it's lousy education.

Young people's minds are not like pop bottles, to be filled and then capped, nor are their complete educations like a washing machine which has just popped off the assembly line. Gigantic campuses on which students are treated like airplane parts (each with its own number) are inefficient and

bureaucratic and depressing.

Besides, present campuses are overcrowded: like California freeways, inadequate when completed. Going into college now is hard and it will be increasingly so, especially if budget cutters have their way.

Nationally, California universities and colleges are top-rated, or at least used to be. It's no accident that California's salaries and standard of living are high: educated people earn more, buy more, and pay more taxes, and that's true all over the world. (The Russians are well aware of this fact; that's how they've come so far from the Middle Ages into the 20th Century.)

Education keeps America's 200,000,000 people ahead of China's 800,000,000 or Russia's 235,000,000. The gadgets that give us strength and ease were invented by educated people. We're smarter than they are, and the day they pass us in that department, we're in deep trouble.

In that race, let's keep running,  
YOUR DAD

## Get Lost, Flower Boy!



## AFFAIRS OF STATE

# State 'Saving' Millions; Taxpayer Digging Deeper

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR  
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — These days the woods are full of claims that the state government is effecting, or is going to effect in one way or another, great "savings" to the taxpayers of the state, through various economies, bills and revisions of operational procedure.

How much of this ballyhoo is political buncombe, and how much is legitimate statement of fact isn't very well defined.

What is well defined is the fact that the taxpayer, instead of benefitting from the so-called "savings," this fiscal year is paying a billion dollars more in taxes than he did the year previously. None of the much flaunted "savings" are being reflected in out-of-pocket expenditures.

No doubt the ordinary citizen who reads about government "savings," or potential savings in the future will begin to wonder about April 15 why some of these claims aren't reflected in his income tax bill, which in thousands of cases, will be increased by more than 100 per cent this year.

No doubt he wonders why, if all these "savings" are anything more than political propaganda, he pays five, instead of 4 cents on every

dollar he expends for goods upon which a sales tax is levied.

No doubt he also wonders why, if there is so much "saving" going on in government, he expends 10 cents for the state tax on every package of cigarettes he buys, instead of four cents.

Example after example of this type of situation could

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be made, but there do not happen to be any examples of where the "savings" are reflected in the amount of out-of-pocket cash money the taxpayer is forced to dig up every day of his life to maintain state government.

The politicians and administration, including Governor Ronald Reagan, have a ready answer for this conundrum that besets the California public.

It seems that "savings" have nothing to do with cash money which comes from the pockets of every citizen of California. They affect apparently, only the cash money the citizen will have to disburse from his meager income in the future, which might be less because of the so-called "savings." Take note of the "might be" as

it's a matter of history that taxes have gone up and up, rather than down a little, in the face of claims that government is "saving" the tax dollar.

The recent report filed by the governor's survey on efficiency and cost control claims "savings" can be effected in virtually every facet of state government it studied. When added up these would amount to \$233 million, assuming that all of its 2,000 recommendations would be effectuated, which is not likely.

But a good question is what does this mean to the California taxpayer? Assuming that government did "save" \$233 million in operations, how would the taxpayer benefit if his taxes are not reduced?

The only logical answer is that he would not benefit at all, for the simple reason the public keeps on paying, while government keeps on spending. And there are no indications along line that government will spend any less in toto in future years, rather, the indications are that it will spend more.

Consequently, the only benefit the taxpayer gets, and this is not a firm benefit, is the hope that his taxes won't be raised in the future.

## WILLIAM HOGAN

# Father's View of Famous Custody Battle Revealed

There is a certain King Solomon element riding on Hal Painter's book, "Mark, I Love You." This is one father's comment on the custody of a child. Perhaps you remember the case.

In February, 1966, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled that Hal Painter's motherless son, Mark, then six, should be turned over to his maternal grandparents "in the child's best interests." This decision followed others in the lower courts which had ruled for the father.

After his wife's death in an automobile accident, Painter, a California writer-photographer, took Mark to his grandparents' farm. Later, remarried, Painter sought to take the child back. But no; the grandparents went to court. The Iowa Supreme Court, in ruling against the father, made some curious

points. It commented on Painter's "bohemian approach" to finances and to life in general. It noted that he read a lot of Zen Buddhism, that he is a political liberal. "We believe," the court asserted, "the Painter household would be unstable, unconventional, arty, Bohemian and probably intellectually stimulating . . ."

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World of Books

It further noted that the grandparents should have the child because they were religious people with a roomy, comfortable home that would provide the child with "a stable, dependable, conventional, middle-class, Middle West background."

Painter's book, while understandably heavy with legal details, is not merely a legal plea. Fundamentally, it is a warm, open-hearted narrative in which a confused

father seeks to tell his feeling for a young son. It is a touching story of a personal ordeal and throws some light on the forces that are at work in our society, including the judicial. One closes the book believing that Hal Painter is a good father to Mark, in spite of their separation. A strange story of justice, injustice, and hope.

"The Torchbearers," by Bernard Dryer, M.D. (Simon & Schuster) is a novel about the interlocking themes of birth control, abortion and the revolutionary movement sweeping Latin America—quite a set of ingredients. Dr. Dryer is the author of a previous novel, "The Image Makers."

In April, Dutton will introduce "Man and the California Condor" in which Ian McMillan traces the embattled history and uncertain future of North America's largest free-living bird.

## HERB CAEN SAYS:

# Pending Visit of French Carrier Has City on Edge

Events in North Vietnam and North Korea—as a Civil War veteran who fought on the Union side, I still find it hard to think of Northerners as the bad guys—have tended to obscure the fact that there's another war going on. That's our war (San Francisco's, in this case) with France, which will heat up on Feb. 21 when the French aircraft carrier, Jeanne d'Arc, steams into the Bay. Oh the French they are a funny race, and that goes for their carriers, too: this one carries nothing but helicopters, which thrill Le Capitaine no end. "There is nothing more exciting," he says, "that to see my copters rise and rise, like the perfect soufflé." As usual, the visiting French sailors will make their headquarters at the colorful Montmartre Cafe on Broadway, which is owned by Francoise Allemand, whose name means German in French. At least, I think it does. Please don't make me walk across this closet to check the dictionary.

Nevertheless, persiflage aside, it pains me as a Francophile to note that anti-French feeling is everywhere evident (I'm pro-French because my fozzer was French whereas my muzzer was German). A most prominent San Franciscan has been asked to join a group of rich Texans (is that redundant?) who have raised \$4 million for a series of anti-French newspaper ads; he finally declined, but only because "I finally realized I hate Texans more than I hate the French." Le Trianon, the fine French restaurant on O'Farrell Street, has prepared a menu—Belgian Endives, Russian Wild Boar, Swiss Souffle—especially for patrons who loathe de Goullefinger. Chez Marguerite, another good French cafe, now advertises "French dishes in the style of Louis XIV and earlier," while Art Petri, owner of L'Entrecote in Hillsdale, has changed that Gallic name to just plain Joe's, suggesting that even Stalin is more popular than Le Grand Charles. And

in Robert Charles' Bistro appears a discreet sign reading, "Don't Blame Us—Why Do You Think We're Here?"

All this is lamentable and even incomprehensible in a city as cosmopolitan as San Francisco, which has long gloried in French bread, French chefs and occasionally French madams. Our

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In San Francisco

first superior restaurant, back in the Gold Rush era, was the Poulet d'Or, which the illiterate miners soon turned into Poodle Dog, a name that lives to this day. And even though many of our downtown merchants talk of boycotting French products, I think they're only half-serious. Boycotts have a way of backfiring: one of my most prized possessions, dating back to an earlier dark age, is a silk banner emblazoned with an eagle, stars, stripes and the legend "Buy American!" At the bottom, one reads in tiny print: "Made in Japan." (A similar oddment happened just recently in England, where an anti-French campaign is in full cry. The market was suddenly flooded with Union Jack sweat-shirts overprinted with "I Support Britain!" They were made in Portugal, where, the English importer said stoutly, "I got better quality and a better price.")

As an admirer of French wine, cheese, cuisine and couture, not to mention Bardot, I find it hard to think of the French as evil—even that old evil man with his force de frappe. Who can take seriously something called a force de frappe, which conjures a picture of a missile designed by Yves St. Laurent, filled with Hollandaise sauce and blasted off by flaming cognac. Anyway, whatever fears I had were allayed by a City Hall official extolling a proposed \$25 million bond issue to beautify San Francisco's Market Street. "What we must do," he glowed, "is transform

Market Street into another Champs Elysees!" Even tycoon Louis Lurie, who is not French, agrees with this, and may contribute the Lurie Memorial Arch of Triumph, rising majestically over the Flame of the Eternal Mortgage, atop the grave of the Unknown Taxpayer.

As long as they don't give us another Eiffel Tower, I think we can remain grateful to the French. After all, we already have an Awful Tower (Coit) on Telegraph Hill, n'est-ce pas?

Now the American Bar Association is sore at Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of New Orleans. Just recently Garrison allowed a reporter to hear some taped testimony by one of his star witnesses (a pimp) in his Kennedy assassination investigation—and the reporter, who preposterously, said to Garrison: "Because of this witness' admitted background, wouldn't he be impeachable?" Replied Garrison coolly: "Pimps are less likely to lie than lawyers." Among those infuriated is the eminent S.F. barrister, James Martin MacInnis, who snaps: "Garrison goes too far. It is acceptable to call us whores, but there the line must be drawn."

Caendid Camera: Chief Justice Earl Warren at the counter of the Fairmont Hotel Blum's, lurching daintily on a deviled egg sandwich and glass of milk. Not followed by a dish of impeach ice cream. . . . Add anonymous do-gooders: The little old Italian lady who spends an hour every afternoon at Broadway and Powell, shepherding tiny schoolkids across that dizzy intersection. . . . Only in San Francisco in January: Pyracantha and bougainvillea growing side by side in the secret gardens of Pacific Heights. . . . International Socialite Bunker Vincent, whose idea of a good time is (1) lunch at Villa Taverna followed by (2) a trip to the S.F. Zoo to feed pink marshmallows to the gray elephants.

## ROYCE BRIER

# Ted Kennedy Has Strong Words About Viet Fiasco

Senator Edward Kennedy, Massachusetts, lacks the glamor of the Senator from New York possibly because Johnny Carson doesn't amuse his vast audience with nightly impressions of the Massachusetts voice. Or perhaps during the late President's term, he was always the kid brother, and can't look at the White House in this cycle.

But for the same reason doubtless, he is more concise and forthright in his view of our Asian policy than is Robert. He doesn't try to formulate solutions; he says our current solution is a bitter failure, in stark contrast to the pious and persistent Johnson-Rusk view.

He has recently returned from a 12-day trip to Vietnam and says flatly the South Vietnamese government is corruption-ridden, with some officials primarily concerned with helping themselves to the "treasure

of American wealth. . . . "Corruption pervades all aspects of Vietnamese life, and is brazenly practiced. In the field of refugee care, and in many other fields, the government of South Vietnam has been engaged in a systematic looting of its own people."

He added: "When we are

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. . . being asked to pay a surtax of 10 per cent to support this war, we have a right to demand that these practices in South Vietnam stop."

You must note that this is a much more severe judgment than the utterances of other congressional visitors to the war front, even those considerably alienated from our policy. If a potential candidate said this it would shake the Johnson Administration.

## Morning Report:

Governor Rockefeller continues to zoom in the popularity polls without making a speech, issuing a statement or taking a position on anything. This must be a terrible blow to the other Republicans who are out campaigning.

Nixon, Romney, Reagan and Percy are acting like candidates but the harder they work at it, the more they fall behind. If the trend continues, it could spell the end of politics as we have known it.

By keeping quiet, any number of voters are sure the New York Governor is more moderate than Nixon, more clear-minded than Romney, more hawkish than Reagan and more dovish than Percy. If he can manage to keep his mouth shut through July, he'll have the nomination, and if he extends his silence through November, he'll beat LBJ.

Abe Mellinkoff